

**TOWN OF SARATOGA TOWN BOARD  
MEETING DRAFT MINUTES  
12 SPRING ST., SCHUYLERVILLE, NY  
August 14, 2023  
7:00 P.M.**

Supervisor Ian Murray opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:01 p.m.

**Roll call:** Town Clerk, Linda McCabe, called the roll: Supervisor Ian Murray- present, Councilmember Michael McLoughlin – present, Councilmember Ruth Drumm – present, Councilmember Gary Squires – present, Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg – present.

**Also present:** Deputy Town Clerk Michelle Conover, Building Inspector/Zoning Officer Gil Albert, Highway Superintendent Don Ormsby, Bookkeeper Pat Temple and other interested persons. (Sign-in sheet is on file in the Town Clerk’s office)

**Recognitions/Presentations/ Bid openings/Public Hearings** – Supervisor Ian Murray introduced Lorraine Fiorini, Town Assessor, and said she was before them to speak about the Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance drivers tax credit.

Lorraine Fiorini distributed packets to each Board member and summarized the current tax exemption information. She said the volunteer firefighters and ambulance drivers can take this tax exemption or the income tax credit, but not both. She went through the local options and how determination is made. She stated there are 24 eligible, certified members and she doesn’t believe this will create a tax burden to other tax payers. This is not a new exemption, as it was enacted for the County years ago. All applicants of this exemption will be evaluated annually. She asked if there were any questions; there were none at this time. Supervisor Ian Murray stated the packet explains this very well and he is in favor of this exemption. The Board will read through the information provided and if all agree, a resolution will be forthcoming next month.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Councilmember Ruth Drumm and seconded by Councilmember Gary Squires, **to accept the minutes of the June 30, 2023 Special Meeting the July 14, 2023 Regular Meeting.** Supervisor Ian Murray - aye, Councilmember Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilmember Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilmember Gary Squires - aye, Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg - aye.  
**Carried 5 – 0**

**Town Clerk’s report for July 2023:** Fees paid to the NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets for the Animal Population Control Program \$56.00. Fees paid to New York D.E.C. for hunting and fishing licenses \$80.30. Fees paid to the New York State Health Department for Marriage licenses \$45.00. Dog license fees to Supervisor Ian Murray were \$255.00. Clerk fees to Supervisor Ian Murray were \$99.70. Total State and Local Revenues received were \$536.00.

**Zoning Officer’s report for July 2023:** 12 Building Permits, 22 Building Inspections, 12 Certificates of Occupancy, 0 Junkyard Permits, 1 Complaint, 1 Fire Inspections, 1 Order to Remedy, 5 misc., 9 Building Permit Renewals and 1 Property Maintenance Inspections. A check for \$5,593.00 was given to Supervisor Ian Murray.

**Dog Control officer's report for July 2023:** The following report was read by Supervisor Ian Murray: Ed Cross, Dog Control Officer answered 15 complaints, took 1 dog to the shelter, 2 bite case, traveled 90 miles, issued 10 warnings and 0 summons' were issued.

**Town Court report for July 2023:** Closed Traffic Tickets - 29, Closed Criminal/Penal Law cases – 2, Closed Civil Cases – 1, Closed Encon/DEC – 7, Closed DWI's – 0, Closed Town & Dog cases – 2. The following checks were submitted to Supervisor Ian Murray for fines & fees: \$206.00 from Justice Charles Sherman and \$2,040.00 from Justice John McCarron.

**Historian's report for July 2023:** No report

**Highway Superintendent's report for July 2023**

- ❖ Mowing @ road sides and ditch lines
- ❖ Addressing washouts on Duel, Wilbur, Farrell and Wilbur Rds. and driveways
- ❖ Unplugging culvert on Neilson Rd. due to beavers
- ❖ Checking culverts and clearing limbs out of ditches
- ❖ Grad-all hydraulic issues, problem getting parts
- ❖ Truck 1 needed universal joints, clutch assembly and sent to KW for engine light
- ❖ Engine light addressed on Truck 5
- ❖ Brake light repairs on Truck 2
- ❖ Boom mower had AC issue and hydraulic leak
- ❖ Did milling and blacktop on Ironwood Dr.
- ❖ Used trucks from Wilton, Stillwater and Northumberland
- ❖ Repaired trench drain in truck bay
- ❖ Removed broken chairs and desks from Town hall
- ❖ Crew and some Town members took Harassment and Lyme disease class
- ❖ Dug holes at Town Boat Launch for the sign
- ❖ Helped Stillwater, Northumberland and Wilton hauling blacktop
- ❖ Would like to purchase a 2015 Gradall xl5100 to replace older Gradall

Highway Superintendent Don Ormsby discussed the issues he's having with the highway department's Gradall and that he can no longer find parts for it. He'd like to purchase a used 2015 Gradall and went through the different estimates he received from numerous companies. He has the money in his budget for this purchase. The Board questioned the mileage, hours of use and shipping cost of the Gradall. The Highway Superintendent stated shipping cost will be \$2,000.00 or less and there's 9400 hours of use on the Gradall. He also stated it's suitable for our roads. After further discussion, the Board decided this would be a good purchase.

A motion was made by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin, seconded by Councilmember Gary Squires, **to approve the purchase of the 2015 Gradall for a price of \$182,000.00.** Supervisor Ian Murray - aye, Councilmember Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilmember Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilmember Gary Squires - aye, Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg - aye.

**Carried 5 – 0**

**Supervisor’s report for July 2023:**

**GENERAL FUND – TOWNWIDE (A FUND)**

Balance on hand 7/1/2023	\$1,295,606.22
Revenues	+ 265,090.93
Disbursements	- (316,367.25)
Balance 7/31/2023	\$ 1,244,329.90

**GENERAL FUND – OUTSIDE VILLAGE (B FUND)**

Balance on hand 7/1/2023	\$2,569,769.24
Revenues	+ 3,126.79
Disbursements	- (6,567.41)
Balance 7/31/2023	\$2,566,328.62

**HIGHWAY FUND – OUTSIDE VILLAGE (DB FUND)**

Balance on hand 7/1/2023	\$1,391,429.71
Revenues	+ 191,134.01
Disbursements	- (240,582.60)
Balance 7/31/2023	\$1,341,981.12

SCHUYLER PARK CAPITAL 7/31/2023	\$ 116,684.84
YOUTH RECREATION & SERVICE 7/31/2023	\$ 8,673.85
HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT RESERVE 7/31/2023	\$ 704.48
BUILDING RESERVE 7/31/2023	\$ 483,358.26
SCENIC BY WAYS QRTLRY 7/31/2023	\$ 312.17
PARKS RESERVE 7/31/2023	\$ 376,956.55
TRUST & AGENCY 7/31/2023	\$ -----
CDBG Project 7/31/2023	\$ -----
GFNB Certificate of Deposit 7/31/2023	\$ 775,925.35
NYCLASS 7/31/2023	\$ 731,931.96
CDPHP & HRA 7/31/2023	\$ 5,140.10

**Public comments on agenda items:** No one spoke.

**Committee reports:**

**Landfill:** No report

**Insurance:** No report

**Youth:** No report

**Senior Citizens:** No report

**Park Committee:** No report

**Office of Emergency Management (OEM):** No report

**WEMS, QSFD Reports:** Don Ormsby stated Quaker Springs Fire Department had 75 calls to date. He added they will hold an Open House on October 14<sup>th</sup>, beginning at noon, as they’re looking for new members.

**Old business:** None

**New business:**

On a motion by Councilmember Ruth Drumm, seconded by Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg, the following **Resolution #23-57 – Authorizing Renewal of the Blanket Official Undertaking for Town Officers Required by Law to Execute and File Official Undertakings**, was adopted by vote: Supervisor Ian Murray - aye, Councilmember Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilmember Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilmember Gary Squires - aye, Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg – aye.

**Carried 5 – 0.**

*WHEREAS*, certain Town Officers are required to execute and file undertakings by reason of certain provisions of the Town Law, and

*WHEREAS*, Public Officers Law §11 allows for the substitution of a blanket undertaking for such individual undertakings; and

*WHEREAS*, the Town of Saratoga has in effect a blanket undertaking for all Town Officers required by law to execute and file undertakings, and

*WHEREAS*, said blanket undertaking provides coverage for the failure of said officers to faithfully perform their duties or to account for all moneys or property received by them by virtue of their positions, and for their fraudulent or dishonest acts; and

*WHEREAS*, Public Officers Law §11 requires this Board to approve blanket undertaking as to form and sufficiency of coverage, now, therefore be it

*RESOLVED*, that the Town Board hereby approves **Crime Policy MPLTSARA001 and Public Officials Liability Policy MPOTSARA001 with NYMIR** to the Town of Saratoga as a blanket undertaking for all Town Officers required to execute and file undertakings including, but not limited to, the Supervisor, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Justices, and Superintendent of Highways, and be it further

*RESOLVED*, that the blanket undertaking shall have \$150,000.00 (One Hundred Fifty Thousand) coverage per employee, with excess indemnity on the Tax Collector in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 (one million), the Supervisor in the amount of \$150,000.00 (One Hundred Fifty Thousand) and shall provide employee dishonesty coverage and faithful performance of duty coverage for said officers as required by Public Officers Law §11, with an appropriate deductible established at the time of the purchase of the policy in accordance with the usual practice of the Town, and be it yet further

*RESOLVED*, that a certified copy of this Resolution be attached to said blanket undertaking and a copy thereof be filed in the Office of the Town Clerk.

On a motion by Councilmember Ruth Drumm and seconded by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin, the following **Resolution #23-58 – Authorizing Appointment of a new Fair Housing Officer for State and Federal Grant funded programs - Supervisor Ian Murray**, was adopted by vote: Supervisor Ian Murray - aye, Councilmember Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilmember Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilmember Gary Squires - aye, Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg – aye.

**Carried 5 - 0**

*WHEREAS*, the Town is applying for a Housing Improvement Grant Program through NYS Community Development Block Grant 2023 funding; and

*WHEREAS*, NYS Homes & Community Renewal, Office of Community Renewal requires the Town designate a Fair Housing Officer who is familiar with fair housing regulations to be the primary point of contact for all fair housing related issues;

now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that Ian Murray, Town Supervisor of the Town of Saratoga, is hereby designated as the Fair Housing Officer for the Town of Saratoga.

**Privilege of the floor:** Ethan Passat addressed the Board concerning his Boy Scout Citizenship badge. The Board spoke with Ethan and after a short discussion, suggested Ethan compose and send a letter to the Town Board with clear and defined objectives/goals on how they may help him.

A resident addressed the Board concerning Schuyler Park.

**Communications:** Supervisor Ian Murray thanked Mike McLoughlin and Sean Kelleher for the work they did on the ribbon cutting ceremony – hats off to both! Councilmember Michael McLoughlin thanked everyone and appreciates the help of all who made it happen.

The next Regular Town Board meeting – Monday, September 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

**Audit the Bills:** On a motion by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin, seconded by Councilmember Gary Squires, the following **Resolution #23-59 - Approving the Payment of Bills in Abstract 8G of 2023**, was adopted by vote: Supervisor Ian Murray - aye, Councilmember Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilmember Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilmember Gary Squires - aye, Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg – aye. **Carried 5 – 0.**

**RESOLVED**, by the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga to authorize payment of the bills listed in **Abstract 8G of 2023 in the following amounts:**

<b>General Fund DB</b>	<b>No. 520 – 532</b>	<b>\$ 54,632.41</b>
<b>General Fund A</b>	<b>No. 493, 494, 503, 505, 516, 517, 534 - 564</b>	<b>\$ 29,751.83</b>
<b>General Fund B</b>	<b>No. 565 - 570</b>	<b>\$ 57,771.22</b>
<b>Schuyler Park H</b>	<b>No. 504, 518 &amp; 571</b>	<b>\$ 4,048.84</b>
<b>CDBG</b>	<b>No. 496 - 498</b>	<b>\$ <u>76,453.14</u></b>
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 222,657.44</b>

A motion was made by Councilmember Ruth Drumm, seconded by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin, **to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.** Supervisor Ian Murray - aye, Councilmember Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilmember Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilmember Gary Squires - aye, Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg - aye.

**Carried 5 – 0**

**Meeting Adjourned**

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda A. McCabe  
Town Clerk